(c) Non-executives and executives have been covered by the special contingency policy amounting to Rs. 1 lakh and 2 lakhs respectively for death/injury due to X-Ray radiation. Subsequent to the Supreme Court judgement, a team from the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Bombay, who are the competent authority for undertaking biannual checks, carried out the first check of BEL site in July, 1987.

**Holding up Indo-US monsoon forecasting projects**

3055. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indo-American research project, which is aimed at accurate monsoon forecasting in India has been held up; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Several short-term Indo-US Joint Research Projects (ending on 30-9-88) aimed at more accurate monsoon forecasting in India, are progressing well. However, a few projects could not be undertaken as clarity on the approach and the data exchange related issues is yet to emerge.

**Staff cars in the Ministry of Science and Technology**

3056. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of staff cars provided in the Ministry of Science and Technology and what is the number out of them, of the cars which are earmarked for the use of officers in this Ministry;

(b) what is the expenditure incurred on petrol and repair on each of the staff cars in this Ministry yearwise during the year 1986 and upto June, 1987;

(c) what is the number of occasions on which these staff cars were utilized for private purposes, as laid down in the staff car Rules applicable to the Ministry of Science and Technology; and

(d) whether Government have charged the admissible amount from the concerned officers for the use of staff cars for private purposes as admissible under the Rules; if so, what are the details of amount recovered from the officers and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) There are 8 staff cars provided in the Department of Science and Technology under the Ministry of Science and Technology which are earmarked for the use of officers in this Department.

(b) The total amount of expenditure on petrol and repairs of the staff cars in the Department for the year 1986-87 and upto June 87 is as under:

| | Expenditure on Petrol (Rs.) | Expenditure repairs (Rs.) |
|---|---|---|
| 1-4-86 to 31 3-87 | 3,57,108 | 1,50.000 |
| 1-4-87 to 30-6-87 | 87,017 | 33,087 |

(c) and (d) The staff car is being used by the Secretary, DST for private journeys on payment of Rs. 150/- p.m. as permissible under the rules. The staff cars have also been used on some occasions under unavoidable circumstances for private purpose by the other officers in the Department. These journeys have been regularised and the bills amounting to Rs. 1410.25 have been preferred against the concerned officers as per rules.

**Appointments by promotion**

3057. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a conscious decision to take rigorous assessment in respect of all categories of officers for the purpose of appointment by promotion in all the services;

(b) whether the attributes required for holding the posts of Director were evaluated by the Central Establishment Board or the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet;

(c) if so, the dates on which these attributes were finalised and approved by the Central Establishment Board and the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet respectively;

(d) whether instructions have been issued to all the cadre authorities to implement the above decisions of the Government; if so, a copy of the communication addressed to various cadre authorities may be placed on the table of the House; and

(e) if no such instructions have been issued how has the Government ensured the implementation of Government decision by all cadre authorities uniformally?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In case of CSS officers Government have laid down guidelines for assessing these officers for inclusion of their names in the Directors list. The CEB applied these guidelines to assess these officers, which was approved by the ACC.

(c) Assessment of the officers as per these guidelines was made by CEB on 24-1-87. ACC approved the assessment on 30-3-87.

(d) The General guidelines for DPCs are being revised and will be issued to all cadre controlling authorities after finalisation of the same.

(e) The Government decision to make rigorous assessment for appointment by promotion has presently been applied to CSS Directors. It has also been applied to such cases of promotion as are centrally processed by the Department of Personnel. After guidelines as in (d) above are issued the same will be applied in respect of all categories of promotions.

**Gold and other items seized at airport**

3058. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of gold and other items seized by the Customs officials on four international airports in the country, during the period from January to July, 1987;

(b) what is the total value of the goods seized;

(c) corresponding figures of the value of goods seized by customs official during the same period in 1985 and 1986;

(d) what are the reasons for increase in the cases of smuggling of gold and other items;

(e) what effective measures have been taken by Government or are proposed to curb smuggling; and